

IMM
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FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM/HAK 110
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FOR THE SECRETARY

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INFO:

DTG: 03 17 42Z

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TOR: 03 18 06Z

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

TO HAK 110

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WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

R484R 10457)1UIVRYRUIV
FORD

McFARLANE,LL

(EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AT 6:00 P.M. EDT SUNDAY, AUG. 3)

WASHINGTON, AUG. 3, REUTER -- PRESIDENT FORD ACCUSED THE SOVIET UNION OF QUIETLY HELPING THE COMMUNISTS IN PORTUGAL AND SAID, IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED TODAY, IT WAS TRAGIC THE UNITED STATES WAS UNABLE TO HELP THE SITUATION THERE.

WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES WERE HELPING PORTUGAL'S SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, HE TOLD THE MAGAZINE U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, BUT BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL PROBES INTO THE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY THE UNITED STATES WAS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE.

"WE DON'T LIKE THE FACT THAT PORTUGAL IS IN TURMOIL NOW," HE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW CONDUCTED BEFORE LEAVING ON HIS CURRENT VISIT TO EUROPE. "I THINK IT IS UNDOUBTEDLY RECOGNIZED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS QUIETLY HELPING THE COMMUNIST ELEMENTS IN PORTUGAL."

"ON THE OTHER HAND, WE DO KNOW THAT WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE HELPING THEIR SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FRIENDS IN PORTUGAL," HE SAID.

"I THINK IT IS VERY TRAGIC THAT BECAUSE OF THE CIA INVESTIGATION AND ALL THE LIMITATIONS IMPOSED ON US IN THE AREA OF COVERT OPERATIONS WE AREN'T ABLE TO PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES."

MORE 0852

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FORD 2 WASHINGTON (EMBARGOED)

"I AM NOT SAYING OUR PARTICIPATION WOULD AUTOMATICALLY SOLVE THE PROBLEM," HE ADDED, "BUT DETENTE SHOULDN'T PREVENT US--AND IT DOESN'T PREVENT US--FROM GOING IN AND MEETING THE CHALLENGES WHERE WE KNOW THE SOVIET UNION IS INVOLVED."

COMMENTING ON THE 35-NATION EUROPEAN SECURITY CONFERENCE, WHICH HE ATTENDED IN HELSINKI LAST WEEK, PRESIDENT FORD SAID THAT ALTHOUGH IT DID NOT ACHIEVE AS MUCH AS SOME PEOPLE WANTED, "I THINK THERE ARE MORE PLUSES THAN MINUSES."

BUT WITH THE SECURITY CONFERENCE OUT OF THE WAY, HE SAID, BOTH SIDES NOW WOULD BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE NEGOTIATIONS --AT PRESENT STALLED--FOR MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS IN EUROPE.

QUESTIONED ABOUT THE WORLD FUEL SITUATION, MR. FORD SAID A PRICE INCREASE OF TWO DOLLARS A BARREL BY THE ORGANIZATION OF PETROLEUM EXPORTING COUNTRIES (OPEC) WOULD IMPEDE THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY OF THE UNITED STATES, WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN.

THAT WOULD NOT HELP OPEC MEMBERS THEMSELVES, HE SAID, AND IT WOULD SERIOUSLY HARM THE LESS-DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.

"RESTRAINT ON THEIR PART IS OF MAXIMUM IMPORTANCE FOR THEM (THE OPEC COUNTRIES) AS WELL AS FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD," MR. FORD SAID.

REUTER 0855

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EDITORS:

THE ABOVE ITEM, R484 AND R485, SHOULD BE SLUGGED FORD-PORTUGAL.

REUTER 0856